United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard (P-19J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois Indiana
Michigan Minnesota
Ohio Wisconsin

U.S. EPA Completes September 1998 Groundwater Sampling and Analysis

Uniontown, Ohio **March 1999**

This fact sheet contains information about:

- The results of U.S. EPA groundwater sampling
- Public involvement opportunities on EPA's revised Proposed Plan

Extended Public Comment Period

U.S. EPA will accept written comments on the Proposed Plan during the 90-day public comment period:

January 11, 1999 through April 11, 1999

Availability Sessions

U.S. EPA will hold an availability session to allow the public to speak one-on-one with representatives from the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA about the revised Proposed Plan and related topics.

Date: Monday, March 1
Time: 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.
Location: Uniontown Community Center 3696 Apollo Street

Public Meeting

U.S. EPA will hold a public meeting to explain the Proposed Plan and accept oral and written comments.

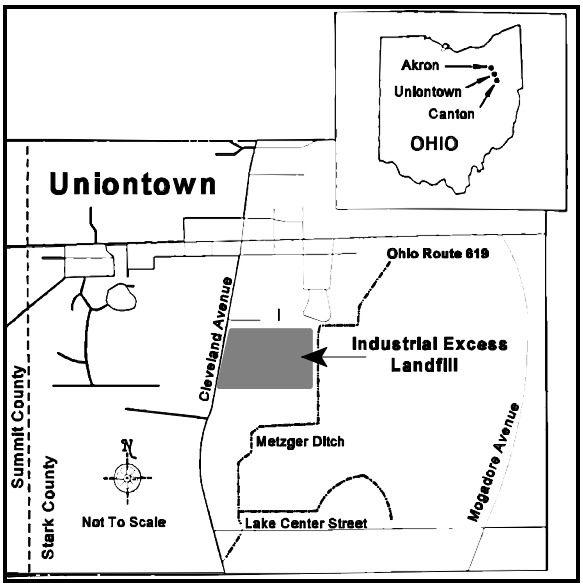
Date: Tuesday, March 2
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Uniontown Community Center

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet summarizes the results of groundwater sampling that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) conducted in September 1998 at the Industrial Excess Landfill (IEL) Superfund site in Uniontown, Ohio, (see the Site Location Map below). It also announces a formal public meeting to explain and receive public comments on U.S. EPA's revised Proposed Plan, and two availability sessions that give citizens a chance to speak with technical staff representatives of U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA.

SITE BACKGROUND

In September 1998, several Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) for the IEL site proposed to conduct a new round of groundwater sampling at the landfill. While U.S. EPA believed it already had sufficient data to support a change in the IEL cleanup plan, it believed that a new round of sampling would be useful. For example, a new round of sampling could take advantage of new, low-flow methods of sampling that measure metals more accurately. As a result, U.S. EPA agreed that the PRPs could move forward, provided that they followed U.S. EPA-approved procedures and agreed to U.S. EPA oversight.



IEL Site Location Map

The September 1998 sampling plan basically repeated the sampling that had been conducted in March 1997. It involved sampling 52 monitoring wells, some of which were on the landfill itself, while others were offsite (mostly west and south of the landfill). In order to have its own set of data with which to compare the PRPs' results, U.S. EPA collected samples from 23 of the 52 monitoring wells. U.S. EPA also collected samples from six residential wells -- four of which were west of the site and two north of the site. Analysis of the samples focused on "contaminants of concern" for the IEL site. These are a group of organic chemicals and metals that EPA had determined should be monitored over time, and that are listed in the Technical Memorandum describing the September 1998 sampling results. U.S. EPA has placed copies of the Technical Memorandum in the information repositories. (See the back page of this fact sheet for the locations of the repositories). U.S. EPA has been tracking these contaminants since 1988. In addition, U.S. EPA conducted an analysis of Tentatively Identified Compounds (TIC). The purpose of TIC analysis is to determine whether any chemicals in addition to the contaminants of concern have emerged as a problem at the site. U.S. EPA considers it unlikely that new contaminants of concern will be found at IEL, given the length of time the landfill has been closed and the degree of monitoring that has taken place. Nevertheless, U.S. EPA has routinely included TIC analysis as part of groundwater sampling at IEL as an extra precaution.

Because U.S. EPA and the PRPs collected separate samples, there are two sets of data for the September 1998 sampling event. This fact sheet summarizes U.S. EPA's data. The PRPs made their own data public in January 1999. U.S. EPA is currently completing a quality assurance review of data collected by the PRPs. Once the review is complete, U.S. EPA will release the validated PRP data.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The September 1998 sampling results continue to show that there is no plume of contamination moving out of the landfill. Please refer to the full report in the site information repositories for a detailed discussion of all of the results.

No Contamination Above Drinking Water Standards Found in Residential Wells

The analytical results for the residential well samples collected do not indicate any contamination above federal drinking water standards. Arsenic and barium, which have previously been linked to IEL, were the only two metals detected in residential well samples (see Figure 1 for location of these wells). Both of these metals were found to be significantly below the federal drinking water standards. The analytical results for all of the residential well samples are tabulated in Appendix B of the full report.

Results from Monitoring Wells

Organics. The September 1998 results revealed no exceedances of federal drinking standards for volatile organic compounds (VOC) outside the landfill property boundary. Within the landfill boundary, VOCs were detected at monitoring wells MW-11i and MW-21s (see Figure 2 for location of these wells). At MW-11i, vinyl chloride was detected at a concentration that is equal to the federal drinking water standard. At MW-21s, benzene, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2- dichloroethene, 1,2-dichloroethane, toluene, and vinyl chloride were detected. Of the VOCs detected at MW-21s, 1,2-dichloroethane and vinyl chloride were present at concentrations that exceeded their respective drinking water standards. Although they exceeded these standards, the concentrations for these VOCs were lower than their maximum historical concentrations.

Inorganics. U.S. EPA found no evidence of a plume of metals contamination outside of the landfill boundary. Overall, metals contamination in the monitoring wells appears to have decreased significantly from the levels reported in previous sampling events. Some of this reduction may be due to the low-flow sampling technique used, which produces samples more representative of actual groundwater conditions than does the older sampling techniques previously used. This new sampling continues to show some exceedances of federal drinking water standards for certain metals, but these exceedances are sporadic. That is, they do not exhibit the consistent pattern that would indicate a plume of contamination moving out of the landfill. The sporadic nature of these metals exceedances is similar to that found in the March 1997 sampling results. Groundwater sampling results that equal or exceed drinking water standards include chromium at MW-11s, MW-18i, MW-24i, and MW-27i; thallium at MW-27s; nickel at MW-18i and MW-25i; and lead at MW-18s (see Figure 2 for locations of these wells).

Tentatively Identified Compounds. The TIC results are generally consistent with previous sampling surveys conducted at the site (1990-1993). The data provide no basis for concluding that new chemicals should be added to the contaminants of concern for the site. The TIC data is presented in Appendices A-2, A-4, B-2, and B-4 of the Technical Memorandum referenced above.

Comparison of Selected September 1998 Groundwater Monitoring Well Analytical Results with Previous Results (1990-1993) and Federal Drinking Water Standards (Concentrations in μg/L)

Sampling Location	Compound	Previous Results (Range)	September 1998 Result	Federal Drinking Water Standard[a]
MW-11s	Chromium	ND[b]-22.5	164	100
MW-11i	Vinyl chloride	ND-3	2/ND[c]	2
MW-18s	Lead	44.6-279	32.5	15
MW-18i	Chromium	ND-7.6	147/68.3	100
	Nickel	ND-23.1	202/194	100
MW-21s	Benzene	ND-17	3	5
	1,1-Dichloroethane	ND-56	41	--
	cis 1,2-Dichloroethene	ND-20	16	--
	1,2-Dichloroethane	ND-8	7	5
	Toluene	ND	2	1,000
	Vinyl chloride	ND-9	8	2
MW-24i	Chromium	ND-739	100	100
MW-25i	Nickel	ND-352	150	100
MW-27s	Thallium	ND-3.4	2.5	2
MW-27i	Chromium	ND-94.2	115/94.1	100

Notes:

[a] Federal drinking water standards are maximum contaminant levels (MCL), which are the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water delivered to users of a public water system

[b] Nondetect (ND)

[c] Sample result/duplicate result

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

U.S. EPA will hold two availability sessions on **Monday, March 1, 1999**, from **2-4 p.m.** and **7-9 p.m.** at the Uniontown Community Center, 3696 Apollo Street. The purpose of the availability sessions is to allow the public to speak one-on-one with representatives from U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA about the revised Proposed Plan and related topics. The revised Proposed Plan calls for addressing groundwater contamination by the use of monitored natural attenuation instead of building a pump-and-treat system. It also proposes changes to the design of the landfill cap.

A formal public meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 2, 1999**, at **7 p.m.** at the same location. The purpose of the public meeting is to explain the revised Proposed Plan and to accept oral and written comments on the Plan.

In addition, U.S. EPA has extended the **public comment period until April 11, 1999**, to give the public extra time to provide comments on the revised Proposed Plan. The total length of the public comment period will be 90 days. U.S. EPA will not make a final decision until it has considered all of the comments received during the comment period. **Written comments**, which **must be postmarked no later than April 11, 1999**, should be sent to Denise Gawlinski at the address on the next page. All comments will be addressed in a document called a Responsiveness Summary, which will be made available to the public after a final decision is made.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like a copy of the entire Technical Memorandum describing the September 1998 sampling results, please contact Denise Gawlinski at the address or telephone number below. Also, please contact Ms. Gawlinski with questions about the upcoming availability sessions and public meeting. If you have technical questions regarding the sampling results or the revised Proposed Plan, please contact Ross del Rosario or Larry Antonelli at the addresses or telephone numbers below.

U.S. EPA Contacts **State of Ohio Contact**

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or call the U.S. EPA hotline -- **(800) 621-8431**

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Copies of the Technical Memorandum, the January 1999 Proposed Plan, and other site-related information are available for review in the information repositories at:

Lake Township Clerk's Office
12630 Market North
Hartville, Ohio

Hartville Branch Library
411 East Maple Street
Hartville, Ohio

These documents are also available for review in U.S. EPA's Records Center in Chicago, Illinois.

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